

# MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

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THIS FOLDER HAS DOCUMENTS STATING CONTINUATION  
BUT THERE IS NO CONTINUATION SHEET

*The Intelligence Establishment*, by Harry Howe Ransom. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970, 235 pp., \$9.95.

I should have had the wit to realize, before I agreed to undertake this task that for an "ex-insider" to review a book on the "intelligence establishment" is unfair both to the author and to potential readers. What might actually be a major feat of scholarly detective work seems fairly routine to one who has spent many years in the system. And major errors or gaps in the more sensitive and therefore more interesting parts of the story may not be identified, since to do so would break a written or unwritten rule. Now having duly warned the editor, the author, and the reader, I must admit to some bemusement as to whether yet another book on the "intelligence establishment," "intelligence community," or the "intelligence process" would be very exciting even to those who have never heard of a "National Intelligence Estimate" (incidentally, it is a "National Intelligence Estimate," not a "National Estimate") or a "safehouse." So much has already been written on the subject, including Mr. Ransom's first book, *Central Intelligence and National Security*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958), that one wonders what still needs to be said. Allen Dulles has treated the reading public to some of the behind-the-scene successes and dismal failures of intelligence operations. (Allen Dulles, ed., *Great True Spy Stories*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968.) Kim Philby has described spookery from the point of view of the spook, (Kim Philby, *My Silent War*. London: MacGibbon and Kee, 1968), and has provided some tales out of school about British intelligence. *Science* magazine can fulfill the needs of the more technically minded on the complexities of space surveillance. Congressional hearings can tell the curious more than they might wish to know about American intelligence operations abroad.

Those who have read Mr. Ransom's first treatise will find themselves going over much familiar ground. The first seven chapters are updated versions of his earlier book. In fact, except for some new sentences or paragraphs here and there, many of these chapters are virtually lifted from the 1958 volume. Cuba (the "Bay of Pigs" and the "Missile Crisis") is now included and so are the Defense Intelligence Agency, a discussion of the growing importance of technical collection methods, and a fuller treatment of the National Security Agency. There is one new chapter describing the British intelligence process and a substantially revised version of the final summary chapter. A purist might wonder why the book was not labeled "an enlarged and revised edition" of the earlier book (as the Copyright Note recognizes) rather than being graced with a new title. And while we are on the subject of the title, the use of the word "Establishment" seems to promise more than the book delivers. I thought when I first picked up the book that I would be treated to a racy "exposé" *a la* *The Invisible Government*. (David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, *The Invisible Government*. New York: Random House, 1964.)

But Mr. Ransom is scholarly rather than sensational; he is trying to understand and is attempting to explain a significant and somewhat murky element of our national decision-making process. The book is written for serious students of government rather than for intelligence buffs, and one should not quarrel with the desirability or even the need for the politically conscious to get a sense of how the intelligence segment of the federal bureaucracy goes about its business. It is a sober and conscientious effort in this direction and, at a time when heat exceeds light on college campuses, it should be a valuable addition to the reading